THE LAST

WILL

AND

TESTAMENT,

OF

Sir THOMAS GRESHAM.

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THE

Laſt WILL and TESTAMENT

OF

Sir THOMAS GRESHAM, *Kt.*

THIS is the laſt WILL written, and Diſpoſition of me, Sir THOMAS GRESHAM, of the City of *London*, Knight, concerning all my Manors, Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, mentioned and contayned in one *Indenture Quadrupartite*, made between me the ſaid Sir THOMAS GRESHAM, and Dame ANNE myWife, on the one Partie, and *Philip Scuddamore*, Gent. and *Thomas Celey*, on the other Partie. Dated the Twentieth Day of *May*, in the Seventeenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen ELIZABETH.

Firſt, Concerning the Buildings in London, *called the* Royal-Exchange, and all Pawns and Shops, Cellars, Vaults, Meſſuages, Tenements, and other whatſoever myne Hereditaments, Parcell or Adjoyning

to the ſaid *Royal Exchange*; I Will and Diſpoſe, that after Expiration and Determination of the particular Uſes, Eſtates and Intereſt for Life, and Intayle thereof, limited in the ſaid Indenture, bearing Date the Twentieth of May: *I Will and Diſpoſe, that one Moiety thereof ſhall remain, and the Uſe thereof ſhall be unto the Major and Commonalty and Citizens of* London, *by whatſoever eſpecial Name or Addition the ſame Corporation is made or known, and to their Succeſſors for Term of Fifty Years then next enſuing, upon Truſt or Confidence, and to the Intent that they do perform the Payments and other Intents in theſe Preſents hereafter Limited, thereof by them to be done and perform'd. And the other Moiety of the ſaid Buildings, called the* Royal-Exchange, *Pawns, Shops, Cellars, Vaults, Meſſuages, Tenements and other mine Hereditaments, with the Apurtenances thereto adjoyning, ſhall remain, and the Uſe thereof ſhall be to the Wardens and Commonalties of the Myſterie of the* Mercers *of the City of* London: (*viz.*) *To the Corporate Body and Corporation of the Company of* Mercers *in* London, *by whatſoever eſpecial Name or Addition the ſame Corporation is made or known, and to their Succeſſors, for Term of Fifty Years next enſuing, upon Truſt and Confidence, and to the Intent that they do perform the Payments and other*

other Intents, in theſe Preſents hereafter lymited, thereof by them to be done and performed. And I Will and Diſpoſe, that after ſuch Time as the one Moiety of the ſaid Royal-Exchange, *and other Premiſes, according to the Intent and Meaning of theſe Preſents, ſhall come to the ſaid Major and Corporation of the ſaid City; and from thence, ſo long as they and their Succeſſors ſhall by any Means or Title have, hold, or enjoy the ſame, they and their Succeſſors every Year, ſhall give and diſtribute, to and for the Suſtentation, Maintenance and Finding Four Perſons, from Tyme to Tyme to be choſen, nominated and appointed by the ſame Major and Commonaltie and Citizens, and their Succeſſors meete to read the Lectures of* Divinity, Aſtronomy, Muſick *and* Geometry, *within myne own Dwelling-Houſe, in the Pariſh of St.* Helen's *in* Biſhops-gate Street, *and in St.* Peter's *the Poor, in the City of* London, (*the Moiety whereof hereafter in this my laſt Will, is by me Lymited and Diſpoſed unto the ſaid Major and commonaltie and Citizens of the ſaid City*) *the Summe of Two Hundred Pounds of lawful Money of* England, *in Manner and Form following,* (viz.) *To every of the ſaid Readers, for the Time being, the Sum of Fifty Pounds, of Lawfull Money of* England, *Yearly, for their Sallaries and Stipends, meete for Four*

 ſuffi-

ſufficiently Learned, to read the ſaid Lectures: The ſame Stipends and Sallaries, and every of them, to be paid at Two uſual Terms in the Year, Yearly, (*that is to ſay*) *At the Feaſt of the Annunciation of St.* Mary, *the Virgin, and St.* Michael *the Archangel, by even Portions to be paid.*

And farther, That the ſaid Mayor and Commonaltie and Citizens of the ſaid City, and their Succeſſors, from henceforth, and ſo long as they and their Succeſſors ſhall by any means have, hold, or enjoy the ſaid Moiety before in theſe Preſents to them diſpoſed, ſhall give and diſtribute the Sum of Fifty Three Pounds Six Shillings and Eight Pence, of Lawful Money of *England*, Yearly, in Manner and Form following, (*viz.*) Unto Eight Almes-Folks, whom the ſaid Mayor and Commonalty and Cityzens, or their Succeſſors, ſhall appoint to inhabit my Eight Almes-Houſes in the ſaid Pariſh of St. *Peter*'s the Poor, to every of them the ſaid Almes-Folks, theSumme of Six Pounds, Thirteen Shillings and Four Pence, to be paid at Four uſual Terms in the Year Yearly, (that is to ſay) at the Feaſt of St *Michael* the Archangel, the Nativity of our LORD GOD, the Annunciation of the Bleſſed Virgin *Mary*, and Nativity of St. *John* Baptiſt, by even Portions.

And farther, that the ſaid Mayor and Commonaltie and Citizens of the ſaid City,

and their Succeſſors, from thenceforth and ſo long as they and their Succeſſors ſhall by any means have, hold and enjoy the ſaid Moiety, before in theſe Preſents to them diſpoſed, ſhall give and diſtribute, at the Terms aforeſaid, to the Relief of the poor Perſons and Priſoners in the Priſons and Places called or known by the Names of *Newgate*, *Ludgate*, the *King's-Bench*, the *Marſhalſea*, and *Counter* now kept in *Wood-ſtreet*, and whereſoever the ſame Priſons hereafter ſhall be kept, Fifty Pounds of Lawful Money of *England*, in Money or other Proviſions and Neceſſaries for them, (*viz.*) to every of the ſame Five Priſons or Places, Ten Pounds, at the Four uſual Feaſts or Terms of Payment of Rent within the ſame City of *London*, moſt accuſtomed, or within Eight and Twenty Days next after, by even Portions.

And as Concerning the other Moietie, before in this my preſent laſt Will diſpoſed to the ſaid Wardens and Commonaltie of the Corporation of the Mercers: *I Will and Diſpoſe, that after ſuch Time as the ſame Moietie, according to the Intent and Meaning of theſe Preſents, ſhall come to the ſaid Wardens and Corporation of the* Mercers; *and from thenceforth, ſo long as they or their Succeſſors ſhall by any Means or Title have, hold and enjoy the ſame, that they and their Succeſſors every Year, Yearly,*

ſhall give and pay and diſtribute to and for the Finding, Suſtentation and Maintenance of Three Perſons, by them the ſaid Wardens and Commonaltie, and their Succeſſors from Time to Time, to be choſen and appointed, meete to read the Lectures of Law, Phyſick *and* Rhetorick, *within myne now Dwelling-Houſe, in the Pariſh of St.* Helen's *in* Biſhopſgate-Street, *and St.* Peter's *the Poore in the ſaid City of* London, (*the Moiety whereof hereafter in this my preſent laſt Will, is by me appointed and diſpoſed unto the ſaid Corporation of* Mercers) *the Summe of One Hundred and Fifty Pounds of Lawful Money of* England, *in Manner and Form following,* (*viz.*) *to every of the ſaid Readers, for the Time being the Summe of Fifty Pounds, for their Sallaries and Stipends, meete for Three ſufficiently Learned to read the ſaid Lectures at two uſual Feaſts in the Year,* (*that is to ſay*) *at the Feaſt of the Annunciation of the Bleſſed Virgin* Mary, *and of St.* Michael *the Archangel, by even Portions to be paid:* And that the ſaid Wardens and Corporation of the *Mercers*, and their Succeſſors, from henceforth, and ſo long as they and their Succeſſors ſhall by any Means have, hold or enjoy the ſaid Moiety, before in theſe Preſents to them diſpoſed, ſhall Yearly Beſtow and Expend One Hundred Pounds of Lawful Money of *England*, in Manner and

Form

Form following, (that is to ſay) ſeverally at Fower ſeveral Terms in the Year in and about the Expences and Charges of a Feaſt or Dynner for the whole Company of the ſame Corporation, to be had and made in the *Mercers-Hall* in the ſaid City of *London*, at and in every their Quarter-Day, the Summe of Twenty Five Pounds. And that farther, the ſaid Wardens and Corporation of the *Mercers*, and their Succeſſors, from thenceforth, and ſo long as they and their Succeſſors ſhall by any Means have, hold or enjoy the ſaid Moiety, before in theſe Preſents to them Diſpoſed, ſhall every Year Give and Diſtribute to the Relief of the poor Perſons and Priſoners in the Hoſpitals, Priſons and Places, called or known by the Names of the Hoſpitals of *Chriſt* or *Chriſt Church*, late the *Grey-Fryars*, in *London*; the Hoſpital of St. *Bartholomew's*, near *Smithfield*, in *London*; the Spittall of *Bethlem*, near *Bishopſgate-Street*; the Hoſpital for the Poor in *Southwark*; and the *Counter* now kept in the *Poultry*, and whereſoever the ſame Priſon hereafter ſhall be kept, Fifty Pounds of Lawful Money of *England*, in Money or other Proviſions and Neceſſaries for them, (*viz.*) To every of the ſaid Five Hoſpitals, Priſons or Places, Ten Pounds, at Four moſt uſual Feaſts or Terms of Payment of Rent within the ſaid City of *London* accuſtomed, or within Eight and Twenty Days next after, by even Portions.

And as touching my Eight Alms-houſes, ſituate in the Parish of St. Peter's *the Poor*, at the Backſide of the ſaid Manſion-Houſe, in the ſaid City of *London*; I Will and Diſpoſe, That after the Expiration and Determination of the particular Uſes, Eſtates and Intereſts for Life, and Entail thereof, limited in the ſaid *Indenture Quadrupartite*, dated the Twentieth of *May*, That *the ſame Eight Alms-Houſes shall remain, and the Uſe thereof shall be unto the ſaid Mayor and Commonaltie and Citizens of the ſaid City of* London, and their Succeſſors, for and during the Term of Fifty Years, from thence next following, fully to be compleat and ended, upon Truſt and Confidence, and to the Intent that they do perform the Payments and other Intents, in theſe Preſents hereafter Limited, thereof by them to be done. And my Truſt, and Confidence, Will, Intent, and Meaning is, That they the ſaid Mayor and Commonaltie and Citizens and their Succeſſors, after ſuch Time as the ſame Almes-Houſes ſhall, by Virtue of this my preſent laſt Will, come unto them the ſaid Mayor and Commonaltie and Citizens, or to their Succeſſors, and from Time to Time, ſo long as they or their Succeſſors ſhall have, hold or enjoy the ſame by any Title or Means, ſhall place or putt Eight poor and impotent Perſons into

into the ſaid Eight Alms-Houſes, (*viz.*) into every one of the ſaid Alms-Houſes one Perſon, and ſhall from Time to Time, ſuffer the ſaid Eight Perſons that ſhall be ſo by them or their Succeſſors there placed and putt, to have, occupy and enjoy the ſame, without any Fine, or other Thing yielded therefore; and ſhall alſo pay unto every of the ſaid Perſons that ſo ſhall be by them placed and put into the ſaid Alms-Houſes, the Summe of Six Pounds Thirteen Shillings and Four Pence, of Lawful Money of *England*, in Manner and Form before in theſe Preſents expreſſed.

And as concerning my ſaid Manſion-Houſe, with the Gardens, Stables, and all and ſingular other the Appurtenances in the ſaid Pariſh of St. *Helen's* in *Biſhopſgate-ſtreet*, and St. *Peter*'s the Poor, in the City of *London*; I Will and Diſpoſe, That after the End, Determination or Expiration of the particular Eſtates, Uſes, Intereſts, and Intailes thereof, limited by the ſaid *Indenture Quadrupartite*, dated the ſaid Twentieth Day of *May*: The ſame my ſaid Manſion-Houſe, Gardens, Stables, and other the Appurtenances, ſhall remain, and the Uſe thereof ſhall be to the Mayor, Commonaltie and Citizens of the ſaid City of *London*, by whatſoever Name or Addition the ſame is made or known, and to their

Succeſſors.

Succeſſors. And alſo to the Wardens and Commonaltie of the Myſterie of the *Mercers* of the City of *London*, (viz.) To the corporate Body, and Corporation of the *Mercers* of *London*, by whatſoever Name or Addition the ſame Corporation is made or known, to have and to hold, in Common, for and during the Term of Fifty Years from thence next following, fully to be compleat and ended, upon Truſt and Confidence, That they obſerve, Perform, and keep my Will, Intent and Meaning, hereafter in theſe Preſents expreſſed. And my Will, Intent and Meaning is, That the ſaid Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens and their Succeſſors; and that the ſaid Wardens and Commonaltie of the *Mercery*, and their Succeſſors, after ſuch Time as the ſaid Manſion-Houſe, Garden, and other the Appurtenances, ſhall, by Virtue of theſe Preſents, come unto them, and from thenceforth, ſo long as they and their Succeſſors or any of them, ſhall have, hold or enjoy the ſame, by any Title or Means, *ſhall permit and ſuffer Seven Perſons, by them from Time to Time to be elected and appointed, in Manner and form aforeſaid, meete and ſufficiently Learned to read the ſaid Seven Lectures; To have the Occupation of all my ſaid Manſion-Houſe, Gardens, and of all other the Appurtenances, for them*

and

and every of them, there to inhabit, ſtudy, and daily to read the ſaid ſeveral Lectures. And my Will is, That none ſhall be choſen to read any of the ſaid Lectures ſo long as he ſhall be Married, nor be ſuffered to read any of the ſaid Lectures after that he ſhall be Married; neither ſhall receive any Fee or Stipend appointed for the Reading of the ſaid Lectures.

And moreover, I Will and Diſpoſe, that if the ſaid Mayor and Commonaltie, (viz.) the Chief Corporation of the ſaid City: And the ſaid Wardens and Commonaltie of the Mercers, *(viz.) the Corporation of the* Mercers *of the City aforeſaid,* before the End of the ſaid Fifty Years, to them in Form aforeſaid lymited; ſhall procure, and obtain, ſufficient and lawful Diſpenſations and Licences, Warrant and Authority, had and obtained, *ſhall have and enjoy the ſaid* Royal-Exchange, *Meſſuages, Shops, Pawns, Vaults, Houſes, and all other the Premiſſes with the Appurtenances for ever; ſeverally by ſuch Moieties, Rates, and other Proportions; and in ſuch Manner and Form as before in theſe Preſents is lymited. Upon Truſt and Confidence, and to the Intent that they ſeverally for ever ſhall doe, maintain and perform the Payments, Charges, and other Intents and Meanings thereof before lymited and expreſſed according to the Intent*

and

and true Meaning of theſe Preſents. And that I do require and Charge the ſaid Corporations and chief Governors thereof, with circumſpect Diligence, and without long Delay, to procure and ſee to be done and obtained, as they will anſwer the ſame before Almighty God; (for if they or any of them ſhould neglect the obtaining of ſuch Licences or Warrant, *which I truſt cannot be difficult, nor ſo chargeable, but that the Overplus of my Rents and Profit of the Premiſſes herein before to them diſpoſed, will ſoon recompence the ſame*; becauſe to ſoe good Purpoſe in the Common-wealth, no Prince nor Council, in any Age, will deny or defeat the ſame. And if conveniently by my Will or other Convenience I might aſſure it, I would not leave it to be done after my Death, *then the ſame ſhall revert to my right Heirs, whereas I do mean the ſame to the Common-weale*, and then the default thereof ſhall be to the Reproach and Condemnation of the ſaid Corporations afore God.) And farther, in Conſideration that ſuch Charges of Wardſhip, Livery and Primier Seizen, as by my Death ſhall fortune to be done to the Queen's Majeſty, of or for all my Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, according to the Laws, and Statutes of this Realm ſhall be paid and born by Sir *Henry Nevil*, Knight, and by the

the Heirs Males, which he hath begotton on the Body of *Elizabeth* his late wife, deceaſed, Daughter of my Brother Sir *John Gresham*, Knight, deceaſed, while ſhe lived my Couſin and Heir apparent, their Heirs Males, Executors or Aſſigns. I do Will and Diſpoſe, as concerning my Mannors of *Mayefylld* and *Wardhurſt*, with the Appurtenances, and all my Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments in the County of *Suſſex* or elſewere, uſed or reputed or belonging to the ſaid Mannor or Mannors of *Mayefylld* or *Wardhurſt*, that after the Expiration of the particular Uſes, Eſtates and Intereſt for Life and Intayle thereof, limited in the ſaid Indenture, the ſame ſhall remain, and the Uſe thereof ſhall be unto my Couſin, Sir *Henry Nevil*, and to the Heirs Males of Dame *Elizabeth*, his Wife, my Niece: And if my ſaid Couſin, Sir *Henry Nevil*, Knight or the Heirs Males, begotten by my ſaid Niece, ſhall not within certain Time after my Death, bear or cauſe to be born the Charges of Wardſhip, Livery or Primier Seizen, according to the Intent and Meaning of theſe Preſents, That then ſuch Gift, Limitation and Diſpoſition as I have herein made to my ſaid Couſin *Nevil*, and the Heirs Males of my Niece's Body, ſhall be utterly void to all Intents and Purpoſes, as if they and every of them had not been mentioned

tioned in theſe Preſents. And then I Will and Diſpoſe, that the ſame Premiſes at *Mayeſylld* and *Wardhuſt* aforeſaid, or to the ſame belonging, ſhall remain, and the Uſe thereof ſhall be in ſuch Sort as the Reſidue hereafter limited ſhall be.

And as concerning all the Reſidue of all and ſingular my Mannors, Lands, Tenements and Hereditaments, whatſoever they be, after the Expiration and Determination of the particular Uſes, Eſtates and Intereſt, for Years, Life, or Intayle thereof, lymited in the ſaid Indenture, and in theſe Preſents: I do Will and Diſpoſe, That the ſame ſhall remain, and that the Uſe thereof ſhall be unto my ſaid faithful, loving Wife, Dame *Anne Greſham*, and to her Heirs and Aſſigns for ever; and ſhe to uſe and diſpoſe of the ſame at her Pleaſure, as ſhe ſhall think meete and convenient; Requiring, amongſt all other Things, That all my Debts, Legacies, and other Duties whatſoever, by me Due, given, lymited or bequeathed to any Perſon, or witheld from any Perſon, ſhall be fully performed, ſatisfyed and paid, and recompenced, as the Caſe in Law, Right, Equity or Conſcience ſhall require. In which Behalf I do wholly put my Truſt in her, and have no Doubt but ſhe will accompliſh the ſame accordingly; and all other Things as ſhall be requiſite or expedient, for both our Honeſ-

Honeſties, Fames and good Report in this Tranſitory World, and to the Profit of the Common-Weale, and Relief of the careful and true Poor, according to the Pleaſure and Will of Almighty God: To whom be all Honour and Glory, for Ever and Ever. *Amen.*

In Witneſs whereof, I the ſaid Sir THOMAS GRESHAM, have written this WILL all with my own Hand; and to each of the Eight Leaves have ſubſcribed my Name, and to a Labell fixt thereunto all the Eight Leaves, have ſet to my Seal with the *Graſshopper*, the Fifth Day of *July*, in the Seventeenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen ELIZABETH, and in the Year of our LORD GOD, One Thouſand Five Hundred Seventy Five, by me,

THOMAS GRESHAM.

Witneſſes to this laſt Will *and* Teſtament, *of the ſaid Sir* THOMAS GRESHAM, *the Perſons whoſe Names be ſubſcribed.*

P. Scudamor.
Thomas Billingſord
Henry Nevil.

E Regiſtro Curiæ Prærogat. Cant. *Extract* &c.

Benefice, Fames and good Report in this Transitory World, and to the Profit of the Common-Weale, and Relief of the careful and true Poor, according to the Pleasure and Will of Almighty God: To whom be all Honour and Glory, for Ever and Ever. Amen.

In Witness whereof, I the said Sir THOMAS GRESHAM, have written this WILL all with my own Hand, and to each of the Eight Leaves have subscribed my Name, and to a Label first thereunto all the Eight Leaves, have set to my Seal with the Grashopper, the Fifth Day of July, in the Seventeenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen ELIZABETH, and in the Year of our LORD GOD, One Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Five, by me,

THOMAS GRESHAM.

Witnesses to this last Will and Testament of the said Sir THOMAS GRESHAM, the Persons whose Names be subscribed,

P. Scudamore.
Thomas Billingford
Henry Nevil.

S. Reg. Car. Prerogat. Cant. Extract &c.